

1 Timothy

CHAPTER 4:1-5

Lesson 7

1 Timothy 3 closed with an exhortation to good behavior in the church. Paul moved from the roles of men and women to his concern regarding those who would lead them astray. Peter, John, and Jude also expressed great concern about these people in their letters. As we read the descriptions, we can readily see that these people are in our churches today. Like the deceivers of old, they do not appear to be evil. Yet, they lead many in the body of Christ astray. May we heed these warnings.

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. Read through this week's verses using at least two different Bible translations or paraphrases. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

Read 1 Timothy 4:1

1. Acts 20 records Paul's last meeting with the leaders of the church of Ephesus. Summarize his warnings to them (Acts 20:28-31).

2. Consider the Source of the information Paul presented in this chapter. What did Paul write?

- a. The book of Revelation contains Jesus' perception of seven churches in Asia. The same warning followed each of His statements. One instance is in Revelation 2:29. What is it?
 - 1.) How does this admonition cause you to pay attention to the words of Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1?

3. The *latter times* include the days after Jesus' resurrection until the end of time as we know it. What will *some* do?
 - a. What was Jude's concern as expressed in Jude 1:3?

 - b. Paul was not writing about losing the ability to believe, but of not following the essentials of God's truths. Consider this as you write the second behavior those who *depart from the faith* will exhibit.
 - 1.) Once a person *departs from the faith*, he becomes fodder for the enemy to be deceived. The first test of true doctrine is what it says about Jesus Christ. Confirm this using 1 John 4:1-6.

4. What are some examples of harmful theology?

5. We may think that *deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons* are always about blatantly evil things. Using Genesis 3:4,5, record the deception Eve fell prey to.

6. What are some examples of thoughts the enemy may tempt us to think about God, specifically about Jesus?

Read 1 Timothy 4:2,3

1. 1 Timothy 4:2,3 continue to describe those who *depart from the faith*.

speaking lies in hypocrisy Define the word *hypocrisy*.

a. The gospels record Jesus denouncing *hypocrites* 23 times. Why do you think Jesus hates hypocrisy?

2. Record the last phrase of verse 2.

a. What is the relationship between *hypocrisy* and a *seared conscience*?

3. Consider the following verses and record the concern.

Matthew 24:24

Acts 20:30

Romans 16:18

Ephesians 4:14

4. These people were energized by Satan, lead people astray, and were hypocrites. Paul was concerned about those who not only were wrong doctrinally but were also wrong morally. From what two things would these people *forbid others* or *command to abstain from*? (1 Timothy 4:3)

a. What might be the sinful result of *forbidding to marry*?

b. Notice that these are two man-made rules. What man-made rules have you been exposed to since you became a Christian?

c. Both rules mentioned in 1 Timothy seem to demand a sacrifice God has not commanded. Why are some people drawn to this type of legalism?

5. Ponder the strong words *forbid* and *command* in verse 3. What does this say to you?

Read 1 Timothy 4:4

1. Record the three reasons Paul gave to refute the rules of 1 Timothy 4:3:

1 Timothy 4:3b

1 Timothy 4:4a

1 Timothy 4:4b

2. Why does diet have nothing to do with our spirituality?
 - a. Confirm this using Romans 14:6.

3. Notice the attitude towards what we eat recommended in 1 Timothy 4:4. What is it?
 - a. Using your own words, explain the attitude of *thanksgiving* that pleases God regarding the food we eat.

Read 1 Timothy 4:5

1. Consider that this does not suggest that we ask God to bless our food, but to thank God for providing it, setting it aside for us. How does this thought prompt you to express your *thanksgiving* for your food?

2. Record God's commands in Genesis regarding *food*:
Genesis 1:29

Genesis 9:3

3. What perspective regarding *food* do you think God would choose for us?

Review 1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. In what ways have you been challenged to:
identify those who have *departed from the faith*

beware of the tactics of those who have *departed from the faith*

take action against those who have *departed from the faith*

2. What did you learn about the motive of those who have *departed from the faith*?

3. How have you been challenged regarding your own possible tendencies to *forbid* what God has not forbidden?

*And now, indeed, I am going to my people.
Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days."
- Numbers 24:14*